

1. [Par panel pulls up ministry over pending assurances on Pharma](#) – **Business Standard**

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has been pulled up by a Parliamentary panel for failing to deliver on as many as 40 assurances, including on availability of life saving drugs, given by different ministers over a span of 16 years.

The Committee on Government Assurances in its latest report regarding the pending assurances pertaining to the ministry (Department of Pharmaceuticals) said that

"assurances from the 3rd session of 13th Lok Sabha to the 8th session of the 14th Lok Sabha are still pending for implementation even after a lapse of more than one and half years to 16 years".

2. [Government says PET bottles fine for medicines but NGT decision awaited](#) – **The Economic Times**

India's health ministry has said that plastic PET bottles can be used as a container for medicines based on recommendations of a high-level committee that had vouched for their safety. But a more definitive decision could depend on the fate of a case in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) against the material over concerns that it may be hazardous for children and pregnant women.

Junior health minister Faggan Singh Kulaste conveyed the government's view in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5.

"There is no conclusive, reproducible evidence to suggest that use of PET (polyethylene terephthalate) or the additive used with it such as antimony, for pharmaceutical packaging may leach substance(s) beyond limits that pose threat to human health," he said in the response, citing the committee's recommendations.

3. [In bear grip: Pharma stocks dive up to 70% from 52-wk highs! Time to pick them](#) – **The Economic Times**

Spooked by regulatory concerns and a shift in focus to domestic plays, the pharma counter has entered the bear grip of late, with as many as 36 stocks falling in excess of 20 per cent from their 52-week high levels.

Pharma is one counter that has given consistent returns for past many years and experts believe it would not be wise to write off the sector as yet. They believe the regulatory concerns looming over the sector would take another quarter or two to fade away and given the recent plunge in some of the pharma stocks, buying some of them on dips can yield healthy returns going forward.

1. [Par panel pulls up ministry over pending assurances on Pharma](#) – Business Standard
2. [Government says PET bottles fine for medicines but NGT decision awaited](#) – The Economic Times
3. [In bear grip: Pharma stocks dive up to 70% from 52-wk highs! Time to pick them](#) – The Economic Times
4. ['Inhuman' pressure from American health care company drove Indian salesman to suicide](#) – The New Indian Express
5. [Government acts to check encephalitis: Nadda](#) – Business Standard
6. [New technology for better drug delivery developed](#) – Business Standard
7. [When policy attention is the best remedy](#) – The Hindu
8. [No impact on CRISIL rating of pharma entities despite US FDA scrutiny](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Similar reports-

- [Drug formulation market grows 9.5% in July to Rs 9,125 crore](#) – Business Standard
- [Indian Pharma Market Regains Growth](#) – Business World (Online)

4. **['Inhuman' pressure from American health care company drove Indian salesman to suicide](#) – The New Indian Express**

A national union of drug sales workers called for new government rules to rein in sales practices industry-wide, saying they compromised with the patient's health. A 27-year-old salesman of Abbott Laboratories' operations in India, one of the American health care company's top performers there, committed suicide amid pressure from the company to achieve sales target.

Similar report-

- [Death of a salesman bares 'inhuman' pressure](#) – The Telegraph

5. **[Government acts to check encephalitis: Nadda](#) – Business Standard**

The central government is seized of the grave issue of encephalitis and taking steps to deal with the challenge, Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda said on Thursday. "We are doing our part from the central government. We provide financial and technical support to the states. But health is essentially a state subject and the implementation role thus remains with the states," Nadda told the Lok Sabha.

Nadda said the healthy life of children was certainly a "responsibility" of the centre and the Modi government was committed to help people.

Similar report-

- [Japanese Encephalitis to be made 'notifiable' disease](#) – The Hindu Business Line

6. **[New technology for better drug delivery developed](#) – Business Standard**

Scientists have developed a new technology that may allow orally administered drugs to bypass the liver and get absorbed directly and quickly into the blood stream. For years, scientists and dietitians have argued over the health benefits of dietary fat. Researchers have now shown that piggybacking onto natural fat absorption pathways can dramatically enhance the utility of some drugs. One of the key goals of drug development has been to produce a therapy that can be taken orally (therefore cheap and easy to deliver) and is absorbed as directly and quickly into the blood stream as possible, according to researchers from ARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent Bio-Nano Science (CBNS) in Australia.

7. **[When policy attention is the best remedy](#) – The Hindu**

Skewed presence of Neglected Tropical Diseases in poorer sections leads to under-investment in research.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) categorises certain parasitic and bacterial diseases as Neglected Tropical Diseases, or NTDs, that cause substantial illness but affect only the world's poorest populations, affecting over a billion people, primarily poor populations living in tropical and subtropical climates.

"Lacking a strong political voice, people affected by these tropical diseases have a ... low status in public health priorities. Lack of reliable statistics and unpronounceable names of diseases have all hampered efforts to bring them out of the shadows," states WHO in an explainer on NTDs.

8. **[No impact on CRISIL rating of pharma entities despite US FDA scrutiny](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

A majority of ratings that CRISIL has assigned to pharmaceuticals companies haven't been affected due to intense scrutiny of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), but course-correction measures are crucial to staving off action over the medium term. CRISIL has ratings on 283 pharmaceutical companies, ~55 per cent of which have an international presence. Of this

lot, ~10 per cent have faced action -- from the FDA or other regulators in the developed markets -- till date. In the past three years alone, 16 CRISIL-rated drug makers have been under such scrutiny. This shaved their exports to developed markets and led to a slowdown in revenue growth to low single digits (two years after regulatory action) compared with greater than 20 per cent earlier, while operating profitability dipped ~400 basis points. However, ratings on more than 80 per cent of them have remained unchanged.